

Special Open Door Forum: **Specialty Hospital Moratorium**

Friday, September 30, 2005
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently suspended processing of new provider enrollment applications for specialty hospitals until January 2006. This action was taken to address our concern that some specialty hospitals may not meet the requirements of section 1861(e)(1) that they be primarily engaged in treating inpatients. We also wanted to be assured that, given their limited focus, specialty hospitals meet such core requirements that we determine are necessary for the health and safety of our beneficiaries. In addition, we wished to consider how the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) should apply to specialty hospitals, in particular with reference to potential transfer cases arising in the emergency departments of other hospitals.

CMS has been comprehensively reviewing its procedures, including conferring with state survey and certification units, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and the American Osteopathic Association. In conjunction with the EMTALA Technical Advisory Group, we have been analyzing the EMTALA regulation and whether revisions of our standards with regard to specialty hospitals may be appropriate.

CMS is holding this Special Open Door Forum teleconference to allow for public input and discussion on our current process for enrolling specialty hospitals, and whether revisions are needed.

Open Door Participation Instructions:

To participate by phone:

Dial: 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID: 8912753

Persons participating by phone are not required to RSVP.

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>. A Relay Communications Assistant will help you.

For more information visit our website at www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor/.